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Archbishop Makarios Not Represented at Lambeth

(London) -- Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus, who on June 24 said that he was too busy to attend the Lambeth Conference in London but would send a representative, has now announced that no one from the Greek Orthodox Church in Cyprus will attend the Anglican gathering (see EPS No. 25).

The announcement came after the Archbishop of Canterbury called Archbishop Makarios a "bad character" on a BBC television interview.

After hearing the announcement, the Greek Orthodox Church representative, the Metropolitan Panteleimon of Thessalonica, announced that he would not attend because of the archbishop's remarks. However, representatives of other Orthodox churches have arrived in London from Rumania, Russia and Bulgaria and said they would attend.

In the controversial BBC interview late in June, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, defended his invitation to Archbishop Makarios to come to Lambeth and stressed the fact that it was an exclusively ecclesiastical decision. "A lot of people feel," he said, "that Makarios is not worthy to be an archbishop. I know as well as anybody what a bad character he is, and my regard for him is about the same as yours. Can I put it bluntly - he is, in fact a man with blood on his hands who has connived at and helped to organise terrorism. His personal character, quite apart from his politics, is no concern of mine.

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You remember that our Lord said, 'Judge not that ye be not judged'. When I ask official people who are heads of churches, I can't examine their characters any more than if the Prime Minister wants to invite the Prime Minister of Russia he has to examine his character." E.P.S., Geneva.

New Violence Threatened in Ceylon

(Colombo) - Extremist and nationalist groups in Ceylon have launched a violent campaign against Europeans and against Christian, Hindu and Moslem minorities, following the recent outbreak of violence between Tamil and Sinhalese speaking groups in Ceylon (see EPS No. 25).

The 7,000 Europeans, predominantly British, are being told that they must leave the country by the end of the year or face possible death. Thousands of leaflets and letters are also being distributed to members of Christian, Hindu and Moslem minorities. Tamil undergraduates in the university have been warned not to return.

One of the pamphlets reads: "Ceylon is only for the Buddhists. You are the people who brought these foreign religions to Ceylon and we orthodox Buddhists feel that unless and until we liquidate you we will not be able to stop the spread of Christianity and Islam to Ceylon."

Ceylon Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike made a special broadcast last week threatening drastic punishment for the organisers of the campaign, whom he described as irresponsible and criminal elements. He said that the drive was "obviously intended to create further communal and religious trouble".

Leaders of the campaign are believed to be extremist Buddhist monks who have denounced Buddha's doctrine of non-violence. Reports from Ceylon say that the group may number as many as 100,000, pointing out that there is nothing to hinder anyone from putting on a saffron robe and proclaiming himself a monk.

Victims of the attacks in June were the Tamils, the burghers who are Eurasian descendants of early Portuguese and Dutch settlers, and the Christians of all communities. Between 12,000 and 20,000 persons are reported to be homeless and at least 300 persons have been killed.

By religions, Ceylon has more than five million Sinhalese Buddhists, 1,600,000 Hindu Tamils, 500,000 Moslems and 715,000 Christians. There are about 50,000 burghers, nearly all Christian. E.P.S., Geneva

Portuguese Episcopal Church Becomes Autonomous

(Lisbon, Portugal) - Bishops of Protestant Episcopal churches from three nations officiated in the consecration of the Rev. Antonio Ferreira Fiandor, of Porto, who becomes the first bishop to be fully consecrated in the Igreja Lusitana in Portugal.

In a service in historic St. Paul Church in Lisbon on June 22, Bishop Plinio Lauer Simoes, bishop of the Southeast of Brazil, conducted the service of worship, consecration and communion. He was assisted by Bishop Norman B. Nash of Massachusetts, in charge of work in Europe related to the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, and Bishop Jaime McCann of Meath, of the Episcopal Church of Ireland.

Bishop Fiandor has been pastor of the Church of St. John in Porto since 1923.

With a bishop who has full powers to ordain pastors and confirm communicants, the Igreja Lusitana in Portugal becomes an autonomous body. E.P.S., Geneva

WCC Central Committee Meets August 21-29 in Denmark

(Geneva) - The 90-member Central Committee of the World Council of Churches will hold its annual meeting at Nyborg, Denmark, from August 21 to 29.

During its session, the policy-making body of the council will discuss the results of conversations in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on August 7 to 9 between representatives of the WCC and the Moscow Patriarchate. The conversations are described as "a first exploratory consultation to exchange information".

Other important items on the agenda of the Central Committee include reports on two developing major studies being conducted by the World Council on "Christians and the Prevention of War in an Atomic Age", presented by Professor C.F. von Weizsäcker of Germany and Dr. C.L. Patijn, member of parliament in the Netherlands, and "Our Common Christian Responsibility Toward Areas of Rapid Social Change", introduced by Dr. E. de Vries of the Netherlands.

A plan for a study on religious liberty "in Roman Catholic and other countries", authorised by the Central Committee last year, will also be presented. This will be introduced by an address on the theological basis of religious liberty to be given by Professor N.H. Sjöe, professor of Christian Ethics, Copenhagen.

The Central Committee is also expected to give final approval to the postponement of the next Assembly of the World Council until Christmas, 1961, and make decisions regarding an Assembly theme and titles of the working groups. Also under discussion will be the plan of integration of the World Council and the International Missionary Council. Final action on the integration of the two bodies is scheduled to be taken at the WCC's Assembly. E.P.S., Geneva

Asians Study Industrial Evangelism

(Manila) - Forty-five Asian church representatives, appointed by Christian councils in thirteen countries, met in Manila from June 2-13 to share their experiences in presenting the Gospel among the workers in Asia's rapidly expanding industrialised communities.

They reported on "an almost explosive growth of cities, of an industrial proletariat, and of vast communities of rootless and lonely people drawn out of their rural societies into urban squalor". Also under discussion was the failure of the churches - from Indonesia to Pakistan - to respond adequately to this problem. The churchmen reported that it was almost taken for granted that "workers" were people not found in their congregations.

But the conference delegates, forty per cent of them laymen from Japan, the Philippines, India, Burma, Indonesia and other countries, also reported on experiments being carried out in presenting the Gospel in new, and sometimes effective ways, in industrialised urban communities.

The conference report pointed out that: "The old idea that Asia is rural and a supplier of raw material to the technologically developed West is rapidly changing. The opportunity provided by the emancipation of Asian countries from colonialism and the strains of a growing population ... has made the processes of urbanisation and industrialisation more rapid in Asia than in other areas of the world. As in Western countries, industrialisation has contributed immensely to the raising of the level of living in Asia. But we cannot consider it an unmerited blessing since it has given rise to a number of social problems which challenge, if they do not deny, the message of the Gospel."

The report calls upon the Church "to change its outlook and approach as rapidly as the system itself is changing, and to re-orient its programme accordingly", and made specific suggestions concerning the training of ministers, the strengthening of lay witness, and the whole work of the Church.

This first Asian Conference on Industrial Evangelism was organised by a committee headed by President Benjamin I. Guansing of Union Theological Seminary, Manila; the Rev. Henry D. Jones, fraternal worker in the field of industrial evangelism in Japan, was secretary. It was held under the auspices of the East Asia Christian Conference. The EACC was asked to take responsibility for the on-going concerns of the meeting. E.P.S., Geneva

Austrian Socialists Not Opposed to Religion

(Vienna) - The new programme of the Austrian Socialist Party, dealing with the relationship between socialism and religion, has just been published, stating that "socialism and religion are not opposed. A religious person can at the same time be a socialist".

The document also recognises the necessity for the churches to undertake social reforms, pointing out that Christianity is a religion which preaches love of one's neighbour.

"There can be no conflicts between socialism, based on moral conviction," the document says, "and the religious groups, as long as the latter do not use power either to enforce confessional demands or in the struggle with other ideologies".

The document also says that for minority churches, especially the Protestant churches, it is important that "equality of status for all confessions be recognised as a basic principle in the life of the state".

The draft of the programme, which was published last November (see EPS No.2), rejected socialism as an ideology. This view is not emphasised in the final version, but the document does state that socialism is a movement "which by no means demands rigid uniformity of ideas".

Commenting on the document, the Austrian Protestant publication, "Amt und Gemeinde", says that the new party programme allows the Church necessary scope within the life of the state and gives individual Christian leaders the opportunity to work within the socialist party as active Christians. But, the paper adds, this assumes that Christians will be on their guard when cooperating with other trends of thought. It remains to be seen how the new relationship between Socialism and the Church will work in practice, the publication says.

E.P.S., Geneva

Church of the Brethren to Ordain Women

(Des Moines, Iowa) - The Church of the Brethren approved the ordination of women as ministers during its 250th anniversary meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. Until now the women have been licensed to preach but have not had the right to ordination.

In other action the church set up a "Peace Mission to Government" to "witness to our basic concerns on peace and brotherhood to governmental leaders who carry strategic responsibilities for the foreign policy of the United States and for the peace of the world". Under the plan, four to six designated "missioners" will seek interviews with government officials and discuss such topics as disarmament, peaceful use of atomic energy, strengthening the United Nations and sharing world resources.

The conference set a goal of \$2,600,000 for an enlarged programme of the church during the next year, a 50 per cent increase over last year's goal.

E.P.S., Geneva

YMCA Caribbean Committee Set Up

(Montego Bay, Jamaica) - Forty-four persons from eleven countries or territories took part in a consultation of YMCA leaders from the Caribbean area, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on June 13-19, and set up a Caribbean Area Service Committee to coordinate the efforts of scattered YMCAs in the region.

YMCA leaders pointed out that the committee was necessary to strengthen each association, to cooperate in training leaders, to establish new associations, with the backing of all YMCAs in the area, and to hold regional conferences to consider common problems and needs.

Speaking on major social, economic and cultural developments in the area, Dr. Michael G. Smith of the University College of the West Indies, said: "The British Caribbean future is a test case for the Western world. Here is an under-developed, multi-racial community which for centuries has been under Western tutelage. Now for the first time these societies have been set free to pursue their own integration and development in their own ways. If they are to succeed, their people will have to make special efforts, and so, too, will their overseas friends."

The consultation was the third YMCA gathering in the Caribbean area, but the first conference since 1949. Present were members of both Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. (In Mexico, Venezuela and Puerto Rico a large portion of the YMCA constituency is of Roman Catholic tradition.) Delegates came from Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, Venezuela, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, the United States, Puerto Rico and Trinidad. Also present were representatives of the South American Federation of YMCAs, the National Councils of YMCAs of England and Scotland, the International Committee of YMCAs of the United States and Canada and the World Alliance of YMCAs.

Mr. Donald Fitz-Ritson of Kingston, Jamaica, a leading Methodist layman and consultation chairman, was named chairman of the new service committee. Representatives will be appointed from five groupings of YMCAs within the area: the Federation of the West Indies, Venezuela, Mexico, Aruba and the United States.

E.P.S., Geneva

Hungary's Bishop Ordass Removed from Office

(Geneva) - Reports that Bishop Lajos Ordass has been forced to retire from his post as head of the Southern Diocese of the Hungarian Lutheran Church have been confirmed by the Budapest Lutheran Church paper "Evangelikus Elet".

The bishop now occupies no official position in the church life of his country, though it is assumed in Lutheran World Federation circles that his status as bishop is not impaired by his being forced to live in retirement. The "Evangelikus Elet" reports refer to him as "retired bishop".

The decision to remove Bishop Ordass was taken at a meeting of the Council of the Southern Diocese on June 24 in the presence of President Janos Horvath of the state Department of Church Affairs. It was announced by the council that the Hungarian government did not recognise the resignation of former bishop Laszlo Deszery in October 1956 as legal (see EPS No. 25), and that he was therefore legitimately still bishop.

The council then thanked Bishop Ordass for the work he had done and asked him to hand over his position to Laszlo Deszery, an offer which was refused in a long speech made by Dr. Deszery which was not reported in detail. The council asked the state to recognise Dr. Deszery's retirement, and he was provisionally replaced by Emil Koren, Lutheran Dean of Budapest.

President Horvath also informed the council that Lajos Grenak, state-appointed Commissioner for the Southern Diocese, had vacated his office and that state subsidies withheld since the beginning of 1958 would now be paid, including arrears from February 1. Mr. Grenak was appointed in late 1957.

In a statement on the removal of Bishop Ordass from office, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, Lutheran World Federation president, and Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, LWF executive secretary, said they regarded the step as the culmination of a chain of events influenced for several months by pressure from the Hungarian government. The LWF officers deplored the fact that Bishop Ordass had been deposed, but added that "the esteem in which this stalwart and truly Christian figure is held all over the world is undiminished; indeed our admiration for the constancy of his spirit grows and grows".

"Bishop Ordass' status as first vice-president of the LWF is in no way affected by this development, of course, and remains unchanged," said Dr. Lund-Quist when informed of Bishop Ordass' removal. He revealed that since November 1957 the LWF had received no direct official information about developments in the Lutheran Church of Hungary.

Bishop Ordass was deposed in 1948 on false charges of illegal currency transactions. Released before his prison sentence expired, he was rehabilitated in August 1956 after discussions between the Lutheran World Federation and the Hungarian government. A few weeks later he was reinstated, following the resignation of Bishop Deszery.

E.P.S., Geneva

US Council Secretaries Consider Faith and Order

(Lake Geneva, Wisconsin) - Faith and Order participation was the principal concern of the 200 executives of local, state, national and international church councils who attended the annual meeting of the Association of Council Secretaries held at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, on June 15-21.

A daily seminar dealt with aspects of "The Challenge of Faith and Order to American Christianity", and was led by Dr. Nils Ehrenström of Boston University School of Theology, and a former staff member of the Division of Studies of the World Council of Churches.

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, chairman of the WCC's Central Committee, discussed problems and issues before the World Council, emphasising that the council is "not a dilution into a solution" but a free association of churches "who accept our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour". The World Council is "used by the churches; it does not use the churches", he said.

In a speech dealing with the present and future of the ecumenical movement in the United States, Dr. Roy G. Ross, general secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, cited the growth of state and city councils. "During the past ten years we have seen an amazing expansion of such councils to almost a thousand in number," he said.

Dr. Ross predicted an increase in the tempo of negotiations for church union, an emphasis on "the theological assumptions" underlying council activities, a clearer understanding of the place of councils in the Church following a study of "the ecclesiological significance of councils of churches", more local cooperation and better coordination of activities of councils at various levels.

Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, executive secretary of the US Conference for the World Council of Churches, spoke to the group on "Relations with Other Christian Groups".

E.P.S., Geneva

YMCA Information Service for South America

(Montevideo) - The Young Men's Christian Association of South America has been publishing an ecumenical information service in Spanish since last April. Entitled "News of the Christian World", it is edited by Augusto Fernandez Arlt of Montevideo, Uruguay, and appears every two months.

The South American YMCAs hope that the new publication will meet the desire of the Spanish-speaking Christians for "full and reliable information about the ecumenical world". E.P.S., Geneva

Women Admitted as Elders in the Netherlands Reformed Church

(Driebergen) - The General Synod of the Netherlands Reformed Church (Hervormde Kerk), meeting at Driebergen on June 23, decided by 27 votes to 24 that women members of the church should be eligible for election as elders and deacons. With the same proportion of votes the synod passed a statement admitting women also to the ministry "in certain cases and for certain tasks". A "woman preacher" must, however, leave the ministry if she marries.

The discussion at Driebergen showed marked difference of opinion about the role of women in the Church in the Netherlands. Most of the speakers at the synod advocated active cooperation of women in the Church's life, but others considered that the participation of women in the work of the Church would weaken the ministry. E.P.S., Geneva

In Brief

A group of "Friends of the World Council of Churches" has been set up in Argentina with Methodist Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri as president. Bishop Barbieri is a president of the World Council. At the same time, an inter-church aid and service to refugees committee was formed, with seven church groups cooperating in it. Bishop Barbieri is also heading this group.

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Reporting on recent developments in Kenya, the "British YMCA Review" says that by the end of 1957 fourteen YMCAs had been established in 27 Kikuyu villages with an estimated enrolment of more than a thousand youths. In the past ten years, two YMCA buildings have been constructed in Nairobi, both having hostel accommodation.

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The American Baptist Convention has voted to establish the denomination's permanent national headquarters in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The town near Philadelphia was chosen after delegates had turned down suggestions to make either New York or Chicago the headquarters.

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Dr. Madeleine Barot of the World Council of Churches will speak on "The Role of the Laity in the Church Today" during special meetings held on July 23-25 at SAFFA, the national women's exhibition going on in Zurich, Switzerland, this summer. Speeches will be given by representatives of Roman Catholic, Old Catholic and Protestant churches. The confessional meetings will close with a Roman Catholic Mass, followed by an ecumenical service.

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Dr. Martin Niemöller, leading German clergyman, is visiting the United States this month. He will lecture and preach in Philadelphia, at Princeton University, at Union Theological Seminary in New York and in Baltimore.

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The Sealantic Fund has granted \$500,000 to the American Association of Theological Schools Fund to provide 45 annual fellowships during the next five years for study toward a doctor's degree by men and women preparing to teach in seminaries. The grant was called "an action of immense significance to the future of the Protestant ministry in North America" by Dr. Nathan M. Pusey, president of Harvard University and of the Schools Fund.

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For the first time a Protestant theologian has been appointed dean of Vienna University. He is Dr. Erwin Schneider, professor of Systematic Theology at the Faculty of Protestant Theology, who will be dean for the academic year 1958-59.

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The 2,500 pastors and laymen attending the convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, went on record as disapproving the proposed name of American Lutheran Church for the new Lutheran body that will be formed in 1960 with the merger of the ELC with two other groups. The representatives of the million-member ELC said that the new church should be called the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, the name of the smallest (62,000 members) of the three merging groups. The third is the American Lutheran Church with 937,000 members.

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Dr. Ray E. Phillips, a social service worker in South Africa since 1918, has been elected moderator of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches at a meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the first missionary to be named to his church's highest elective post.

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Theme of the 1959 German Kirchentag, scheduled to be held in Munich next summer, will be "You Are My People", according to Dr. Reinold von Thadden-Trieglaff Kirchentag president.

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Growth of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church has been reported to the denomination's world conference, meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. Membership in the Adventist church in Southern Africa has grown from 78,200 to 165,900 in the last four years. At the same time it was reported that membership in South America has more than doubled since 1947. It now stands at 91,622 members.

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A committee for an International Meeting of Christians for World Peace, headed by the Rev. Toyohiko Kagawa, well-known Japanese Christian leader, has announced plans for a conference in Tokyo in August. The meeting will discuss what Christians can do toward banning the use of nuclear weapons and the need for help for atomic victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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Dr. Robert Paul, associate director, left the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches, near Geneva, Switzerland, this week, after four years on the staff. He will become professor at Hartford Theological Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut, USA, in the autumn.

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The Basel Mission is planning to open a new mission station in the Mandara mountains in the North Cameroons. The missions of the American Church of the Brethren and the Sudan United Mission have welcomed the plans of the Basel Mission. The local government authorities agreed to the opening of the mission station, as long as its activities are mainly devoted to education and medical work.

E.P.S., Geneva

ReviewsInternational Review of Missions

The July issue of the "International Review of Missions", publication of the International Missionary Council, continues the emphasis on Africa that has followed the January meetings in Ghana and Nigeria. L.B. Greaves reports on the All-Africa Church Conference which was held in Ibadan, Nigeria. J.H. Nketia of the University College of Ghana discusses "The Contribution of African Culture to Christian Worship", and Miss Betty Hares writes about "Men and Women in Africa Today".

Other articles in the quarterly publication include "Christian Responsibility in the Population Problem" by Dr. John B. Wyon; "The Legions of the Ignorant" by the Rev. H.D. Northfield; and "The Missionary Appeal Today" by the Rev. Douglas Webster, which discusses the urgency of the Christian mission among millions of non-Christians. The Rev. Edward Rogers reviews the Anglican report, "The Family in Contemporary Society", which is to be submitted to the Lambeth Conference. The issue also includes "Training for the Ministry in Africa and Asia" by the Rev. A.H. Dammers.

E.P.S., Geneva

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The Ecumenical Review

Articles in the July "Ecumenical Review", World Council of Churches' quarterly, include "The Super-Church and the Ecumenical Movement" by the WCC's general secretary, W.A. Visser 't Hooft, "Changes in Protestant Thinking about the Eastern Church" by Edmund Schlink of Heidelberg, and "Baptists and the Ecumenical Movement" by J.D. Hughey, Jr., of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Ruschlikon, Zurich. John W. Harms writes as a participant in a scheme in which "The Churches Plan Their Future in Metropolitan Chicago". The international "Concert of Prayer for Missions" in the early 19th century is described by R. Pierce Beaver. Baron Frederik M. van Asbeck of the Netherlands puts forward "Considerations on the Need for International Representative Institutions".

The Ecumenical Chronicle includes the full text of Bishop Otto Dibelius' report to the synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany in which he discusses church-state tensions over youth and army chaplaincies. A report on the Moscow celebrations of the fortieth anniversary of the restoration of the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church and a book review of publications containing the speeches of Russian Orthodox leaders in the USSR provide background for the meeting soon to be held between the Moscow Church and the WCC.

The World Council Diary and other book reviews complete the issue.

E.P.S., Geneva

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The Student World

"Christianity and Secular Ideologies" is the theme of the recent issue of "The Student World", magazine of the World's Student Christian Federation. This is the first of two numbers on "Christianity and the Faiths of Modern Man"; the second, to be published later in the year, will be on "Christianity and Ancient Religions".

The articles deal primarily with two ideologies - Marxism and existentialism. Professor Nicola Abbagnano of Italy deals with the question "Is Existentialism a Faith?", and Professor Michel Philibert of France discusses "Existentialism and Marxism". There are also articles on "The Ambiguities of Marxist Doctrine", and "Marxism: An Ideology or a Political Tool?". The encounter between Christianity and Communism as it occurs in Japan and Eastern Germany is described by two people who are much involved in it. The book review section contains "Some Bibliographical Notes on Living Ideologies", and a review article on some recent books on Christian art. Valdo Galland, WSCF associate general secretary, gives "Impressions of a Tour in Southeast Asia", and Mauricio Lopez, WSCF secretary, "A General View of the Latin American Situation".

E.P.S., Geneva

